

“Have a Blessed Day”

Wishful Expression – Divine Declaration

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This is one of the most common *wishful expressions* being tossed around today by people in grocery stores, department stores, & many other settings. However, I have never heard anyone say exactly what they mean by this expression. In Ephesians 1:3-14, however, Paul offers not a *wishful expression* but a *divine declaration* of how God has already blessed His people. He names such blessedness in terms of 7 features:

First, God’s blessings are **spiritual** or “in the heavenlies” (v. 3). Such blessings pertain to our spiritual, regenerate nature. “All spiritual blessings” are for spiritual people. Non-spiritual people are devoid of these blessings. So, He identifies 6 other features in vs. 4-14 which explain this truth.

Second, God’s blessings pertain to **election** (v. 4). The entire multitude of spiritual blessings which come upon us *in time* actually began *before time* began. God elected/chose us “in Him” in eternity. Scripture never reveals just why this is so. Yet, this electing or choosing for salvation occurred “in Him” & never apart from Him. This includes our justification & sanctification. We are to be “holy & blameless before Him in love.” **I.e.**, living loving lives of separation unto Him & His service. Love always flows from faith, & even in all our present imperfections, such love & faith are covered by the perfect merits of Christ.

Third, God’s blessings relate to **adoption** (v. 5). This places us into the position of sonship. Jesus alone is the Mediator Who makes such a maneuver possible. God was prompted to adopt people by nothing outside of Himself – and least of all, by anything in us. In Christ alone our hope for sonship is found!

Fourth, God’s blessings include **grace** (v. 6). God is to be praised because He made His grace or unmerited favor available in our salvation. Such gracious bestowal was culminated & manifested in Christ alone. We are accepted only “in the Beloved” and that is grace par excellence or beyond comparison!

Fifth, God’s blessings involve **redemption** (vs. 7-8). This involves liberation from the dominion of sin and was brought about by the payment of the ransom price of Jesus’ blood. His full payment was a ransom price which releases sinners from God’s court. It is the sending away or remission of trespasses and their guilt. In such liberation, God generously saturated us with “wisdom & intelligence.” *Wisdom* is “the essential insight into the divine realities of the sufficiency of the gospel.” Such wisdom deserves our trust & obedience. *Intelligence* is “the God-

given ability to apply practically such wisdom to the varying situations which come to us in everyday life.”

Sixth, God’s blessings provide **revelation** (vs. 9-10). He “**made known to us the mystery of His will.**” I.e., He chose to reveal to us that His will was the gospel of grace which is preached worldwide. In making this mystery known to us, God simply followed the norm of “His own good pleasure.” It pleased Him to do so. And this He planned from eternity to do in Christ. Yes, in the New Testament era, God’s will is what Christ carries out. From eternity, God has connected everything with Christ Who will eventually lay everything at God’s feet (1 Co. 15:28). In the mean time, God’s will takes place “in heaven” where He is preparing a place for His people, and “on earth” where He makes all things work together for good to those who love Him.

Seventh, God’s blessings embrace an **inheritance** (vs. 11-14). Both v. 11 and v. 14 use this word. Just as God fulfilled His promise that He would give us His Holy Spirit, even so He will also eventually fulfill His promise of the heavenly inheritance. His giving the Holy Spirit is, in fact, His pledge/guarantee or down payment, so to speak, that the inheritance will also be given. Therefore, this giving of the inheritance in the future is something which brings about praise to God in the here and now. It alone reveals God’s presence (i.e., His glory). Yes, the giving of the Holy Spirit is God’s seal of His ownership of us. By the bestowal of the Spirit, God marks us out as His own! Indeed, v. 14 echoes for the third time (vs. 6, 12), the expression, “for the praise of His glory” which completes or rounds off the magnificence of how God has already blessed us today - and every day in Jesus Christ! This is no wish – it is a full-fledged divine declaration of truth!